

## GENERAL NEWS

### CONDITION OF COTTON CROP.

**Lowest Condition Ever Reported at this Season of the Year—The Average Placed at 74.1; North Carolina at 74.**

Washington, June 5.—The cotton bulletin of the Department of Agriculture, issued yesterday, is as follows:

The statistician of the Department of Agriculture estimates the total area planted in cotton in the United States this season at 28,905,000, an increase of 1,025,000 acres, or 3.7 per cent upon the acreage planted last year. The average condition of the growing crop on May 26 was 74.1, as compared with 95.1 on May 26, 1902, 81.5 on May 20, 1901, and a 10-year average of 86.9.

The percentage of increase in acreage in the different States is as follows: Virginia, 7.0; North Carolina, 7.2; South Carolina, 5.3; Georgia, 4.4; Florida, 2.0; Alabama, 2.3; Mississippi, 4.5; Louisiana, 2.8; Texas, 1.5; Arkansas, 5.8; Tennessee, 6.0; Missouri, 11.0; Oklahoma, 5.5; Indian Territory, 10.3.

The condition of the crop by States on May 26, was as follows: Virginia, 73; Mississippi, 78; Louisiana, 76; Texas, 76; Georgia, 75; Florida, 81; Alabama, 73; Mississippi, 70; Louisiana, 76; Texas, 80; Arkansas, 76; Tennessee, 83; Oklahoma, 72; Indian Territory, 76; Missouri, 76.

The condition now reported is for the cotton belt as a whole, and for the States of Georgia, Alabama, and Texas in particular, the lowest condition ever reported at this season of the year. The crop is almost everywhere from 10 to 21 days late.

### Ohio Republicans Would Reduce Southern Representation.

Columbus, Ohio, June 4.—The Ohio Republican Convention at Columbus to-day nominated a full State ticket, headed by Colonel M. T. Herrick, of Cleveland, for Governor. President Roosevelt was endorsed for a second term and Senator Hanna for another term.

The platform was a long one. It declared for a big navy and a more elastic currency, opposed tariff tinkering, but hinted that mild revision, to accompany reciprocity, might be all right in the future, and denounced negro disfranchisement in the South, declaring in favor of reducing Southern representation in Congress.

### Secretary Bruner on the St. Louis Exposition.

Secretary T. K. Bruner, of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture, has returned from St. Louis where he is the superintendent of the special exhibits in agriculture for the Louisiana Purchase Exposition. The agricultural department of the exposition is in charge of Chief F. W. Taylor, of Nebraska. Mr. Bruner is enthusiastic about the great fair and particularly about his department. The land on the fair

grounds set aside for agriculture embraces 73 acres, and of this 30 acres will be under cover. The buildings, which will be among the handsomest on the grounds, will be treated in colors, while the other structures will be in ivory. Mr. Bruner says the Exposition will be more essentially for farmers than any other great fair. The outlay is absolutely stupendous. Superintendent Bruner has visited Texas, Indian Territory, Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, Florida, Georgia and Tennessee, and arranged for special agricultural exhibits. He will spend a while here and then work in South Carolina and Virginia as well as this State.—Raleigh Cor. Messenger.

### The Panama Canal.

Now that the treaty has been ratified and the route selected for an inter-oceanic canal, a few items concerning it may be of interest to our readers, the most of whom may hope to live until this canal is completed and the current of commerce the world over be largely changed as a result. The canal begins at the harbor of Colon and extends about six miles to the Chagres River, which it follows to Obispo, about thirty miles from the Atlantic terminus. Here it follows a small stream called the Camacho, about five miles, until it reaches the continental divide at the great Culebra cut, thirty-six miles from Colon and thirteen miles from Panama. From this it follows the Rio Grande River to Panama bay. The entire length is 49.09 miles, and can be traversed in twelve hours, whereas the Nicaragua route is 183.66 hours for passage, involving, of course, one night.

There is also involved a channel through the harbor of Colon and through the bay of Panama, with a minimum depth of 35 feet at low water, and a minimum width of 500 feet, and a maximum of 800 feet. The depth of the canal throughout will be 35 feet, the bottom width 150 feet, and the locks 740 feet in length and 84 feet in width.

This is an immense undertaking and will cost a large amount of money, probably twenty years' time, and, on account of the prevalence of Chagres fever, will involve the loss of many lives of laboring men. It will, however, transform the Pacific Ocean into an American lake, and will change in many respects the commerce of the world, destroying the trade of some sections and building up new centres. On the whole it will be greatly beneficial to humanity as a whole, bringing the different portions of the world much nearer together than ever before. It will do for the New World what the Suez Canal did for the Old.—Wallace's Farmer.

The Presbyterian General Assembly in session at Los Angeles, Cal., has adopted by unanimous vote the revision of creed as recommended by the committee chosen in 1901. In the new confession of faith infant damnation is eliminated and a more tolerant reference to the pope is substituted for the term hitherto in use, "anti-Christ," in the section referring to the Roman church.

### A Gold Standard for Mexico.

Mr. Secretary Limantour, who has recently been to New York elaborating a plan for the improvement of Mexico's monetary system, has made public the details of this new scheme through the New York Times. It is, in brief, to introduce a new silver coinage to the amount of \$100,000,000 which is to have a guaranteed value of fifty cents gold for each dollar. To secure the credit of the Treasury in making this guarantee a gold reserve fund of \$5,000,000 will be held. The present coinage of Mexico will be pushed into the market as silver bullion. The weight in grains of the new dollar is not given in the report which we have at hand. We do not know what is its relative value as compared with Mexico's dollar now in existence. That is really not of the essence of the question, however, for the dollar of the United States, carrying a few grains less of pure silver, holds its value in terms of gold, and will buy more than two of the Mexican dollars. Since this new dollar is to be worth only fifty cents, and since this would be the result of bimetalism on the basis of 32 to 1, the implication appears to be that bimetalism is thus continued—that is to say, that the gold standard is not adopted. But it must be apparent to any observer that when a gold reserve is held as a guarantee for the stability of a silver circulation, the standard is really a gold standard. The money of the country may not be reduced actually to terms of gold at any time, but, as a matter of course, the paper money issued on the basis of silver gets its value, not from the silver but from the nation's guarantee backed by the gold reserve. It is, therefore, a gold standard after all, and calling fifty cents worth of silver a dollar, and so coining it, is only a pleasant fiction. On the whole, the plan which is substantially the same as that adopted by the United States for the Philippine Islands, seems to be a very promising one, and taken with the prosperity and rapid development of our neighboring republic, holds out hopes of a stable monetary system in Mexico, a need long keenly felt in that country.—Nashville Christian Advocate.

### A War of the Big Corporations.

The Pennsylvania Railroad recently accomplished an act of "legalized vandalism" without parallel in this country since General Sherman marched to the sea. In the space of a day 60,000 Western Union Telegraph Company's poles along the line of the railroad were chopped down or pulled up by locomotives, and over 12,000 miles of line, valued at nearly a million dollars, were put out of business in six States—New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, the Virginias and Maryland. This wholesale destruction of property was the result of a war with the Gould system, which became very bitter when the Wabash Railroad invaded Pennsylvania territory and entered Pittsburgh. President Cassatt of the

Pennsylvania retaliated by ordering the Western Union off the line of the railroad. The case was fought out in the courts and was decided adversely to the telegraph company. On May 23, the United States Circuit Court in Pittsburgh refused a restraining order asked for by the telegraph company, pending an appeal to the Supreme Court. Anticipating such a refusal, nearly 10,000 men armed with axes had been stationed along the right of way, and when the signal was given the entire telegraph line crashed to the ground. Should the United States Supreme Court reverse the case the Pennsylvania may find use for a portion of its new issue of \$75,000,000 of stock underwritten by a New York syndicate, for it will be called upon to settle a pretty bill of costs. The Postal Telegraph will supersede the Western Union on the Pennsylvania Railroad lines according to present plans.—Collier's Weekly.

### Boss Rule and a Free Press in Pennsylvania.

There was given to the public, last month, a long statement of political conditions and methods in Philadelphia, in the form of a review covering the past four years. It was issued by the managers of the Municipal League. It is a scathing description and analysis of the evil methods pursued in what the reformers consider the most scandalously corrupt of all great cities. The government of the city of Philadelphia has not been wholly distinct in influence and character from the government of the State of Pennsylvania. Republican boss rule has dominated the affairs of city and State alike. One of the most extraordinary achievements of this boss domination has been the passage by the recent Legislature of a new law directed against the newspapers, intended to suppress political cartoons, and to restrain the press from extreme criticism of the acts of officials. Undoubtedly, some of the Philadelphia newspapers—one in particular—have gone far in the virulence of their attacks upon the high officers of Philadelphia and the State of Pennsylvania. But the provocation to these forms of newspaper attacks has been great; and, furthermore, the ordinary libel laws have been available, with a judiciary made up largely of men owing their positions to the very personages most frequently assailed by the press. The new enactment is ascribed to the personal influence of Governor Pennypacker himself; who, in giving it his signature, made a long public defence of it that has excited the derision of newspapers throughout the entire country. Criticism of public officers in the United States is in no particular danger of doing any harm. It is sometimes excessive, and sometimes seriously unjust. But it is wholesome and necessary that there should be great freedom in the discussion of public men and measures.—From "The Progress of the World," in the American Monthly Review of Reviews for June.